



The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Dean Cannon
Speaker

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Florida House Concludes 2011 Legislative Session

Balances State Budget without Raising Taxes or Fees, Passes Several Pro-Business, Pro-Job Creation Measures

Tallahassee—The Florida House of Representatives today marked the conclusion of the 2011 Legislation Session passing SB 2000, The Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12 General Appropriations Act (GAA), as well as a comprehensive list of related implementing bills and conforming bills.

“The people of Florida sent us to Tallahassee to make hard choices during difficult times,” said Florida House Speaker Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park). “I’m proud to say that in this session, in this House, we were willing to challenge the status quo and to discuss bold ideas.”

The House passed the FY 2011-12 General Appropriations Act, a total state budget of \$69,676.6 billion, \$841.5 million less than FY 2010-11. The general revenue funds budget is \$23,182.7 billion, \$863.3 million less than FY 2010-11. The FY 2011-12 spending plan would leave \$1 billion in general revenue fund reserves, \$492 million in the budget stabilization fund and \$789 million in the Lawton Chiles Endowment Fund for a total of \$2,281.0 million in reserves.”

“We did what is necessary to produce a responsible balanced budget without raising taxes,” said Representative Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring) Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. “We offered achievable cuts in order to prioritize critical needs and we prioritized people over things and essentials over non-essentials.”

For additional information by topic area, including state agency funding details on the FY 2011-12 GAA, please visit the [House Office of Public Information web page](#). For a full listing of ALL

2011-12 appropriations documents from both the Florida House and Senate, please visit www.myfloridahouse.gov/2011appropriation.

During the 2011 Legislation Session the Florida House also passed numerous pieces of the legislation aimed at fostering private sector job creation. Bills passed by the Florida House eliminate the corporate income tax for nearly half of the Florida businesses who pay it, create the Department of Economic Opportunity and State Economic Enhancement & Development (SEED) Trust Fund to consolidate economic development, workforce development, community planning and affordable housing initiatives, and modernize Florida's growth management system and unemployment compensation program.

"We recognize that government does not create jobs, but during the 2011 Legislative Session, we embraced our responsibility to implement policies that lead to private sector job creation," said Speaker Cannon.

Measures aimed to encourage private sector job creation, include:

Corporate Income Tax Relief

CS/HB 7185 increases from \$5,000 to \$25,000 the amount of corporate income that is exempt, effectively eliminating the corporate income tax burden for nearly half the roughly 30,000 Florida businesses that currently pay the tax.

Department of Economic Opportunity

The Conference Committee Amendment for SB 2156 creates the Department of Economic Opportunity. The Department is responsible for coordinating the efficient delivery of services and programs related to economic development, workforce development, community planning and development, and affordable housing. The Department will also be responsible for creating a single statewide strategic plan to address the promotion of business formation, expansion, recruitment and retention in order to create better jobs with higher wages for all geographic regions of the state.

SEED Trust Fund

HB 7205 creates the SEED Trust Fund within the Department of Economic Opportunity.

Effective July 1, 2012, the bill redirects a total of \$75 million from documentary stamp tax revenues, currently dedicated to affordable housing trust funds, and \$50 million from documentary stamp tax revenues currently dedicated to the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF) into the SEED Trust Fund. The revenues from the STTF will grow to \$75 million over the next three years.

The SEED Trust Fund makes it possible for lawmakers and the governor to make strategic investments that utilize taxpayer dollars in the most effective way possible, specifically by taking into account what sector of the economy Florida would benefit most from investing in as it relates to the economic realities of the time, be it affordable housing programs, transportation infrastructure projects, or incentives to existing or new businesses to create jobs.

Growth Management

The House passed legislation to modernize Florida's growth management system by focusing the state on important state resources and facilities, removing layers of state oversight, and giving local governments the flexibility and control needed to implement locally relevant approaches to growth management.

CS/HB 7207 changes the comprehensive plan amendment process by changing the statutory requirements of local comprehensive plans, including removing the twice a year limitation on local government adoption of plan amendments. The legislation also expands the expedited plan amendment process instituted via pilot in 2007, while retaining the more extensive review of plans for newly formed cities, plan amendments that impact areas of critical state concern, and large-scale rural, undeveloped and environmentally sensitive areas.

Unemployment Compensation Tax Relief

The harsh reality of the economic downturn overwhelmed Florida's Unemployment Compensation trust fund and triggered automatic increases in taxes for Florida employers. CS/CS/HB 7005 reduces taxes for most Florida businesses, providing businesses the financial security to continue to employ workers.

For more information about legislation aimed at fostering private sector job creation, and all other legislation passed by the Florida House during the 2011 Legislative Session, please visit www.myfloridahouse.gov.

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